IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1 and 3-14.

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for packaging products (3), such as candies, in a removable enclosure, ~~wherein the products (3) are positioned~~ said method comprising the steps of positioning the products (3) on a first sheet (1) which is continuously moved in a transport direction,

~~wherein the products (3) are covered~~ covering the products (3) by a second sheet (2) which is continuously moved in the same transport direction and which is aligned substantially plane-parallel to the first sheet (1), and

~~wherein~~ sealing together the first and second sheets (1,2) ~~are sealed together~~ near the outer edges of the individual products (3) or grouped products by a sealing device (10, 22, 16),

~~characterised in that the~~ said sealing device ~~comprises~~ comprising sealing ribs (12) extending substantially transversely to the transport direction on one side of the moving sheets (1, 2), wherein said sealing ribs (12) are being moved at the same speed as the sheets (1, 2) and the sealing ribs (12) seal the first and second sheets (1, 2) together in between the moving products (3).

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the sealing device (10, 22, 16) comprises a rotating frame (10), the rotation axis of said frame (10)

extending transversely to the transport direction, wherein said sealing ribs (12) extend from a coaxial cylindrical surface of said frame (10).

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising the step of pre-shaping at least one of said sheets (2) ~~is pre-shaped~~ to fit at least partially around the products (3) before the sheet (2) comes into contact with the products (3).

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[2,]] 3, further comprising the step of performing ~~wherein~~ said pre-shaping action ~~is performed~~ by a pre-shaping device (10, 11) comprising a first rotating shaping frame (10) on one side of the moving sheet (2) and a second rotating shaping frame (11) on the opposite side of the moving sheet (2), the rotation axes of both frames (10, 11) extending transversely to the transport direction of the sheet (2), wherein said frames (10, 11) comprise co-operating protruding shaping ribs (12, 13) extending substantially transversely to the transport direction, wherein the shaping ribs (12, 13) of both frames (10, 11) move between each other, and wherein said shaping ribs (12, 13) are being moved at the same speed as the pre-shaped sheet (2).

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of positioning ~~wherein~~ the first pre-shaping frame (10) ~~is positioned~~ such that it guides the pre-shaped [[film]] sheet (2) towards the other moving sheet (1) while including the products (3).

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of positioning ~~any of the preceding claims 1 – 4, wherein the products~~

~~(3) have an elongated form and are positioned~~ transversely on the first moving sheet (1) the products (3) having an elongated form.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims 1 – 5~~, wherein the sealing ribs (12) comprise ultrasonic welding means.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the sealed areas between the products (3) are perforated or scored, such that the packaged products (3) stay attached to each other, but can be easily separated.

9. (Currently Amended) A device for packaging products (3), such as candies, comprising

first transport means (8) for continuously moving a first sheet (1) in a transport direction,

positioning means (4, 5, 6) for positioning the products (3) on the first sheet (1),

second transport means (10) for continuously moving a second sheet (2) in the same transport direction in alignment substantially plane-parallel to the first sheet (1) while covering the products (3), and

a sealing device (10, 22, 16) for sealing the first and second sheets (1, 2) together near the outer edges of the individual or grouped products (3),

wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the sealing device (10, 22,16) comprises protruding sealing ribs (12) extending substantially transversely to the transport direction, and said sealing device (10, 22, 16) further comprises synchronizing means for

moving said sealing ribs (12) at the same speed as the sheets (1, 2) while sealing the first and second sheets (1, 2) together in between the moving products (3).

10. (Currently Amended) A method for packaging products (3), such as candies, wherein the products (3) are positioned on a first sheet (1) which is continuously moved in a transport direction, wherein the products (3) are covered by a second sheet (2) which is continuously moved in the same transport direction and which is aligned substantially plane-parallel to the first sheet (1), and wherein the first and second sheets (1, 2) are sealed together near the outer edges of the individual grouped products (3) by a sealing device (10, 22, 16), wherein at least one of said sheets (2) is pre-shaped by a pre-shaping device (10, 11) to fit at least partially around the products (30) before the sheet (2) comes into contact with the products (3), wherein ~~characterised in that~~ said pre-shaping device (10, 11) comprises a first rotating shaping frame (10) on one side of the moving sheet (2) and a second rotating shaping frame (11) on the opposite side of the moving sheet (2), the rotation axes of both frames extending transversely to the transport direction of the sheet (2), wherein said frames comprise co-operating protruding shaping ribs (12, 13) extending substantially transversely to the transport direction, wherein the shaping ribs (12, 13) of both frames (10, 11) move between each other, and wherein said shaping ribs (12, 13) are being moved at the same speed as the pre-shaped sheet (2).

11. (Currently Amended) A device for packaging products (3), such as candies, comprising

first transport means (8) for continuously moving a first sheet (1) in a transport direction,

positioning means (4, 5, 6) for positioning the products (3) on the first sheet (1),

second transport means (10) for continuously moving a second sheet (2) in the same transport direction in alignment substantially plane-parallel to the first sheet (1) while covering the products (3),

a sealing device (10, 22, 16) for sealing the first and second sheets (l, 2) together near the outer edges of the individual or grouped products (3), and

a pre-shaping device (10, 11) for pre-shaping at least one of said sheets (2) to fit at least partially around the products (3) before the sheet comes into contact with the products (3),

wherein ~~characterised in that~~ said pre-shaping device (10, 11) comprises a first rotating shaping frame (10) on one side of the moving sheet (2) and a second rotating shaping frame (11) on the opposite side of the moving sheet (2), the rotation axes of both frames (10, 11) extending transversely to the transport direction of the sheet (2),

wherein said frames (10, 11) comprise co-operating protruding shaping ribs (12, 13) extending substantially transversely to the transport direction, and

wherein the shaping ribs (12, 13) of both frames are movable between each other, and said pre-shaping device (10, 11) further comprises synchronizing means for moving said shaping ribs (12, 13) at the same speed as the pre-shaped sheet (2).

12. (Currently Amended) An array (19) of packaged products (3), such as candies, comprising two sheets (1, 2) which are sealed together and enclose said products (3) or groups of products,

wherein the sealed areas between the products (3) are weakened, such that the packaged products (3) can be easily separated, and

wherein ~~characterised in that~~ one of said sheets (1) is a substantially flat relatively rigid board or film and the other sheet (2) is a relatively flexible foil shaped to fit at least partially around the products (3).

13. (Currently Amended) An array (19) of packaged products (3) according to claim [[11 or]] 12, wherein the products (3) have an elongated form and are positioned transversely with respect to the sheets (1, 2).

14. (Currently Amended) An array (19) of packaged products according to claim 13, wherein the sides of the sealed sheets (1, 2) extending from the outer ends of the products (3) are [[bend]] bent in order to give the array (19) rigidity in its longitudinal direction.